Unit 2: The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

Essential Questions:

* How did the early American experience culminate in the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence?
* How did the failure of the Articles of Confederation influence the authors of the Constitution?
* What are the key principles of the Constitution and how do they guard against tyrannical government?
* How did the fight for ratification influence the adoption of the Constitution and create the foundations of the two party system?
* What is the importance of the Bill of Rights in modern day society?
* Why is the Constitution considered a living document? **\**

Textbook: 2-2, 2-3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3

Know these key terms and their significance:

Declaration of Independence:

Articles of Confederation:

Confederation:

Constitution:

Constitutional Convention:

Great Compromise:

Three Fifths Compromise:

Federalists:

Antifederalists:

Ratification:

*The Federalist Papers:*

Preamble to the Constitution:

Constitutional Principles.

1. Separation of Powers:

2. Checks and Balances:

3. Federalism:

4. Limited Government:

5. Popular Sovereignty:

Elastic clause:

Reserved powers:

Delegated powers:

Amendment:

The Bill of Rights:

First Amendment:

Symbolic speech:

Due process:

Be able to explain:

-Why the American colonies declared independence from Great Britain

-How the Constitution “fixed” the problems of the Articles of Confederation

-How the Constitution is a “bundle of compromises” (compromises made at the Constitutional Convention, including the Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, etc.)

-Federalist versus Antifederalist arguments and debates in ratifying the Constitution (especially the importance of including a Bill of Rights)

-Purpose of the government as explained by the Preamble

-Major freedoms in the Bill of Rights and limits on those freedoms